

### REMARKS

By the above amendment, Claim 21 has been cancelled and rewritten as new Claim 22 to more clearly set forth the presently claimed invention. Claims 23-38 are based on the claims already under consideration. The above amendments should raise no new matter issues and are believed to put the subject application in better condition for allowance. Entry of the new claims is therefore proper and is respectfully requested. The new claims are believed to be free of the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of those rejections and objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Turning to the art rejection, the Claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as assertedly obvious over Ryan U.S. Patent No. 4,825,465 in view of Close. The rejection is traversed in as much as it is applied to the new claims now under consideration.

Ryan appears to disclose an electro-magnetic switching system which utilizes for each branch of current two relay-coils for current sensing. These in turn open corresponding mechanical contacts placed in the inverse current branch for mechanical disconnection of the line of the idle device. The transistors Q1 and Q2 are **just switching transistors** for amplifying the switching currents of the holding coils (80,72), and do not trigger circuits (there are no positive reaction means applied between output and input in the branch where the user station is placed). The signal loop current circulates in the branch 26 through passive components and mechanical contacts (a passive component can't give a command. Moreover, the same signal circulates in the input and the output of the impedance; therefore C1, C2, C3 and C4 are just by-passes or all-passes or better a shorting-circuit components placed in parallel to the corresponding relay-coils in order to minimize the noise which increases with the frequency. Since all the components disclosed in Ryan are passive (a passive component can't give a command), there is no command of connection means in the branch.

In addition Ryan no where discloses a plurality of user stations, the scope of the disclosure in Ryan allows no more than two stations improving the quality and the attenuation of the transmitted signal over the line by placing in series a number of relay-coils for current sensing and capacities for by-passing the signal current in both leads tip and ring of the line.

Thus, Ryan in view of Close does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention and the 103 rejections based on Ryan in view of Close should be withdrawn.

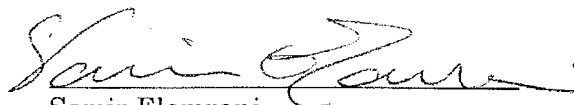
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit (Docket # 100718.54209US).

Respectfully submitted,

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